

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/696,248

Examiner

Truc T. T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

LU, XIAOCHENG

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on 10/28/03 and an interview on 9/28/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18 and 20-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 9/28/04 .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
**TRUC T. NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond Y. Chan on September 28, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Please cancel claim 19.
- Please amend claim 17 and 20 as follow:

17. A connector unit for constructing an electronic circuit, comprising:

a supporting frame having a first side and an opposed second side; and  
at least an electric conductive terminal fastener affixed to said supporting frame, wherein said terminal fastener has an inserting head upwardly extended from said first side of said supporting frame and a socket housing integrally extended from said inserting head and defining a receiving socket on said second side of said supporting frame, wherein said inserting head is shaped and sized corresponding to said receiving socket;

whereby said connector unit is adapted to structurally and electrically connect with another said connector unit form said electronic circuit by detachably inserting said

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inserting head of said terminal fastener of said connector unit into said receiving socket of said terminal fastener of another said connector unit to structurally connect said supporting frames with each other and to electrically connect said terminal fasteners with each other so as to form said electronic circuit[.];

wherein said terminal fastener further comprises a resilient element formed at an opening portion of said receiving socket for applying a retaining force against said inserting head of another said terminal fastener when said inserting head of another said terminal fastener is inserted into said fastener when said receiving socket of said terminal fastener.

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20. The connector unit, as recited in claim [19] 17, wherein said socket housing has a circular loop shoulder formed around said opening portion of said receiving socket to define a circular chamber surrounding said opening portion of said receiving socket and two opposed guiding slots provided along a sidewall of said opening portion of said receiving socket to communicate with said circular chamber of said loop shoulder, wherein said resilient element has two S-shaped end portions and a semi-circular middle arc portion connected between said two ends portions being arranged inside said circular chamber of said loop shoulder, wherein said middle arc portion of said resilient element is propped against an outer wall of said loop shoulder to support two straight end tails of said two end portions respectively extending into said receiving socket of said socket

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housing through said two guiding slots, wherein said two end tails are parallelly disposed to define a distance therebetween and smaller than a diameter of said receiving socket.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach the terminal fastener further comprises a resilient element formed at an opening portion of the receiving socket.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T. T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2011. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. T. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
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